Coal Survey laboratory of NER

1456. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of coal survey laboratory of N.E. Region at Jorhat;

(b) whether there is any plan to shift it outside the region;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal of merger with the coal Division of R.R.L., Jorhat; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The coal survey laboratory of N.E. region at Jorhat is a unit of CFRI, Dhanbad. There is no plan to shift the laboratory outside the region.

(c) and (d) The proposal to merge coal survey laboratory with a larger CSIR laboratory known as Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, is awaiting approval of CSIR.

Formulation of National Renewable Energy Policy

1457. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a national renewable energy policy so as to augment the contribution of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to the total volume of power resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the various sources of power generation; and

(c) by when the new policy is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has prepared a draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement. The objective of the Policy Statement is to enhance the contribution of renewables, namely, solar wind, biomass and small hydro by meeting minimum rural energy needs; providing decentralised/off-grid supply for agriculture, industry, commercial and household sectors in rural and urban areas; and grid quality power generation and supply.

The draft of the Policy Statement has been submitted by the Ministry for further approvals.

Private participation in Non-Conventional Energy Sector

1458. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether IREDA has not been able to sufficiently attract private capital and participation in non-conventional energy sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that the incentives and guarantees suggested by IREDA are inadequate to comfort and encourage private sector;

(c) whether the causes of failure have been explored; and

(d) what corrective steps are proposed by IREDA to stimulate the private sector in entering the non-conventional energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. IREDA has been able to attract private capital and participation in the non-conventional energy sector. IREDA has been providing financial assistance to private sector for manufacturing renewable energy systems and devices and also for power generating projects through renewable energy sources apart from providing consumer loans directly and through intermediaries.

As a result of the various incentives, concessions and rebates